

Steven Sepe

From: Anne Hagan <ahagan25@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 12:24 PM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Cc: Rep. Shekarchi, K Joseph; Rep. Bennett, David A.; Sen. LaMountain, Matthew L.
Subject: Support Bill 7029 Preserving Dignity and Compassionate Care

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Dear Members of the Legislative Committee,

I urge you to support Bill 7029.

As a hospice nurse for many years, I witnessed how essential foot care is to patient dignity, comfort, and safety. Over time, podiatrists largely stopped providing routine foot care in patients' homes, leaving a significant gap in care for elderly, disabled, and homebound individuals. That gap has never been filled—and patients have suffered as a result.

I cared for patients who were embarrassed that they could no longer care for themselves, and for those at the end of life who wanted their loved ones' nails trimmed as a final act of dignity. I also saw preventable harm, including a homebound veteran who used a pocket knife to cut his own toenails and ended up in the emergency room. Another patient expressed disbelief at how meaningful it felt simply to have his legs and feet gently cared for at the end of his life.

After retiring from hospice nursing, I obtained certification as a foot care nurse because I saw firsthand how unmet this need had become. The same compassion and passion I brought to patients at the end of life is the same passion I bring to providing basic foot care. There were times when patients could not afford to pay privately, and a sliding scale was offered. In other cases, patients at the end of life were provided care at no cost. This work has never been about making money—it is about caring deeply for people who would otherwise go without.

Some have raised concerns from a podiatry perspective. This bill does not replace podiatrists or expand nursing practice beyond training. **Foot care nurses provide preventive, non-surgical care and are trained to recognize complications and refer patients appropriately.** In reality, this legislation fills a gap left when in-home podiatry care became unavailable.

Bill 7029 allows nurses trained to care for **high-risk patients**, including those with diabetes, edema, and peripheral vascular disease, to provide this essential care safely and independently—consistent with every other state.

I respectfully urge the committee to **advance and vote in favor of Bill 7029**, closing a dangerous gap in care while preserving dignity, preventing avoidable harm, and honoring compassionate, patient-centered care.

Sincerely,

Anne Hagan, RN, BSN

Certified Foot Care Specialist